

ディー・グレイマン
D.Gray-man reverse
The Clergyman of Departure

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NOTES:

ALLEN'S THOUGHTS (ITALICS)

[BLAH] (FLASHBACK VOICES)

* INDICATES SCENE CHANGE

A PARTICULARLY STRONG WIND SUDDENLY BLEW PAST.

THE PURPLE FLOWER IN RIZA'S HAND WAS GENTLY BLOWN AWAY. AS THE FLOWER SLOWLY DISAPPEARED DOWN THE HILL IT COULD BE SEEN SWAYING TOGETHER WITH THE BREEZE.

RIZA GRIPPED HER HANDS TOGETHER.

"YOU'RE RIGHT...THE DAYS THAT I'VE SPENT WITH HIM HAVEN'T DISAPPEARED. I'M SURE THAT THE MEMORIES I SHARED WITH MY IMPORTANT PERSON WILL ALWAYS REMAIN INSIDE OF ME."

"YES, I'M SURE OF IT."

ALLEN AND RIZA SMILED AT EACH OTHER. RIZA THEN TOOK THE POT IN ONE HAND.

"WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?"

"RIGHT AWAY!"

AS HE DRANK THE TEA RIZA POURED FOR HIM AND ATE SCONES, ALLEN CONTINUED TO GAZE IN RAPTURE UPON THE NATURE OF BRITAIN, NEVER GETTING BORED WITH IT.

THE SKY GRADUALLY CHANGED TO RED.

RIZA STOOD UP WITH A STARTLED CRY.

"AH! I MUST GO TO THE HOSPITAL. I JUST REMEMBERED I STILL HAVE THAT APPOINTMENT WITH THE DOCTOR."

"LET ME ESCORT YOU THERE."

ALLEN SAID CLEARLY.

"OH NO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO..."

"I'D LIKE TO TAKE ANOTHER STROLL AROUND BRITAIN. PLEASE, LET ME ACCOMPANY YOU."

RIZA SMILED AT ALLEN AS HE HELD OUT HIS HAND TEASINGLY.

"VERY WELL THEN, PLEASE DO SO. AH, WAIT A SECOND."

JUST AS RIZA WAS ABOUT TO ACCEPT ALLEN'S HAND, SHE TOUCHED THE SLEEVE OF HIS COAT INSTEAD.

"YOUR SLEEVE BUTTON, IT'S ALMOST COME APART."

"OH, YOU'RE RIGHT."

THE BUTTON ON HIS LEFT SLEEVE WAS DANGLING ON ITS THREAD.

"I'LL FIX IT FOR YOU RIGHT AWAY, SO GIVE ME YOUR COAT."

"EH? BUT..."

"NEEDLEWORK IS MY SPECIALITY. I'LL HAVE IT FIXED IN A JIFFY."

AS RIZA SMILED SWEETLY AT HIM, ALLEN COULDN'T HELP BUT SMILE BACK.

"...OKAY, PLEASE DO."

FROM HER SKIRT POCKET, RIZA TOOK OUT A SMALL SEWING KIT. WITH A SKILLED HAND, SHE ATTACHED THE BUTTON BACK TO THE SLEEVE.

"THANK YOU."

"HERE, I'M FINISHED."

CAREFULLY, SHE HANDED BACK HIS BLACK COAT.

"THANK YOU."

ALLEN PUT ON HIS COAT. MAYBE IT WAS HIS IMAGINATION, BUT HIS COAT FELT WARMER THAN BEFORE.

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THE HOSPITAL WAS POSITIONED TWO ROADS ACROSS FROM THE SHOPPING CENTER.

THIS BRAND NEW TWO-STORY BUILDING WAS BUILT WITH STONE WALLS, AND INCLUDED A SPACIOUS GARDEN WHERE LARGE APPLE AND CHERRY BLOSSOM TREES WERE PLANTED.

THOSE WHO SAW IT WOULD IMMEDIATELY NOTICE ITS HOMEY AND CALMING ATMOSPHERE.

"THIS IS A FINE BUILDING."

"YES, ISN'T IT? WE EVEN HAVE EQUIPMENT THAT IS RARE FOR A RURAL TOWN LIKE US."

RIZA SAID THIS WITH A HINT OF PRIDE IN HER VOICE.

ALLEN NODDED HIS HEAD AS COMPLEX THOUGHTS CAME TO MIND.

*CREATING A HOSPITAL LIKE THIS AND MANAGING IT
WOULD REQUIRE A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY.
JUST HOW IS THE DOCTOR PLANNING TO RAISE THAT
MONEY?*

WHEN THEY ENTERED THE HOSPITAL, RIZA TURNED TO HIM AND BOWED.

"THANK YOU FOR KEEPING ME COMPANY. I'LL BE GOING TO COUNSELING NOW."

"OKAY, I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE. TODAY WAS FUN."

"I THOUGHT SO TOO...THANK YOU FOR GOING OUT WITH ME."

ALLEN WATCHED RIZA OFF AS SHE HEADED TOWARDS THE RECEPTIONIST.

RIZA HAD LOOKED AS THOUGH SHE HAD BROKEN FREE FROM SOMETHING. HE GOT THE FEELING THAT HE WOULDN'T BE SEEING HER AT THE CEMETERY TONIGHT.

AM I THINKING TOO OPTIMISTICALLY?

"RIZA!"

ALLEN TURNED AROUND AS HE HEARD A VOICE ECHO THROUGH THE CORRIDORS.

WALKING HURRIEDLY TOWARDS HER, THE DOCTOR GRABBED FIRMLY ONTO RIZA'S ARM.

"I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. WE NEED TO TALK. COME THIS WAY!"

"O-O-KAY..."

THE DOCTOR HALF-DRAGGED RIZA TO THE EXAMINING ROOM, IT WAS A FORCEFUL AND VIOLENT ATTITUDE, ONE THAT WASN'T APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO DISPLAY TO A PATIENT.

...I'M GETTING A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

LEAVING THE INTERIOR OF THE HOSPITAL, ALLEN WANDERED AROUND TO THE BACK OF THE BUILDING.

AFTER FINDING THE WINDOW OF THE ROOM THAT RIZA AND THE DOCTOR HAD ENTERED, ALLEN QUIETLY PEEPED INSIDE.

HE SAW RIZA SITTING DOWN ON A BED, LOOKING PERTURBED. THE DOCTOR WAS SITTING IN A CHAIR ACROSS FROM HER.

SO THAT THEY WOULDN'T NOTICE HIM, ALLEN OBSERVED THE SITUATION FROM BEHIND THE WINDOW SHADES.

HE COULD HEAR THE DOCTOR'S VOICE.

"RIZA...ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU DECIDED?"

RIZA LOOKED DOWN WITH A PENSIVE FROWN.

"DOCTOR...I REALLY DON'T KNOW..."

"WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SAYING, RIZA? THIS IS THE BEST METHOD WE CAN USE TO HEAL YOUR HEART."

ALLEN RUBBED HIS EARS.

THE BEST METHOD TO HEAL HER HEART? WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY THAT?

"BUT, I..."

THE DOCTOR PLACED A HAND ON RIZA'S SHOULDER AS SHE HESITATED.

"THE TWO OF YOU WERE VERY MUCH IN LOVE BACK THEN. DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE HIM ONE MORE TIME?"

RIZA CHEWED ON HER LIPS.

THE DOCTOR BEGAN TO TAKE ON A MORE FEVERISHED TONE.

"YOU CAN SEE YOUR BELOVED AGAIN, YOU KNOW? DON'T YOU WANT TO HEAR HIS VOICE? OR TURN A SMILING FACE TO HIM? I'M SURE HE WANTS TO SEE YOU TOO!"

"HE WANTS TO...SEE ME..."

RIZA MURMURED IN A DAZE.

THE DOCTOR WILDLY NODDED HIS HEAD.

"YES! HE LOVED YOU VERY MUCH. HE REALLY WANTS TO SEE YOU AGAIN! WON'T YOU GRANT HIS WISH?"

WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

ALLEN STARED AT THE DOCTOR.

THIS IS COUNSELING?

IT APPEARS MY BAD PREMONITION WASN'T A FLUKE.

THE CONSIDERATE WORDS AND GENTLE ATTITUDE HE HAD SHOWN AT THE CEMETERY MUST HAVE BEEN A PUBLIC APPEARANCE.

WHAT IS THE DOCTOR TRYING TO GET RIZA TO DO?

"EVERYTHING'S READY. YOU ONLY HAVE TO MAKE A RESERVATION THROUGH TELEPHONE, AND WHEN SOMEONE COMES TO HELP YOU CALL BACK HIS SOUL."

THE DOCTOR SPREAD HIS HAND WIDELY IN A GRAND GESTURE, AND SAID FERVENTLY.

"WILL YOU BELIEVE IN THIS MIRACLE? HE WILL BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE!"

WHAT?

ALLEN COULD HARDLY BELIEVE HIS EARS.

HE SAID, 'HELP HER TO CALL BACK HIS SOUL'?

I SEE, SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT. SO, THE ONE HE WAS TALKING TO ON THE PHONE...

RIZA'S SHOULDERS GRADUALLY SHOOK, AND AS THOUGH A FLOODGATE HAD OPENED, SHE BURST INTO TEARS.

"I WANT TO SEE HIM...I WANT TO SEE HIM SO MUCH, I COULD DIE..."

HER VOICE CONTAINED SO MUCH DISTRESS THAT ANYONE WHO HEARD IT WOULD HAVE FELT THEIR HEARTS TEAR APART WITH PITY.

ALLEN QUIETLY STROKED THE SCAR THAT RAN ON THE LEFT SIDE OF HIS CHEEK.

[I WANT TO SEE HIM. I WANT TO SEE MANA.]

HE REMEMBERED HIS OWN VOICE FROM THREE YEARS AGO.

ALLEN TIGHTLY CLENCHED HIS HAND INTO A FIST.

BUT YOU CAN'T RIZA. BECAUSE...

THE DOCTOR'S FACE IMMEDIATELY SHONE.

"I SEE! THEN, LET'S MAKE THE TELEPHONE CALL..."

"BUT..."

RIZA INTERRUPTED THE DOCTOR.

"I WANT TO SEE HIM...BUT, I DON'T NEED TO BRING HIM BACK TO LIFE..."

ALTHOUGH SHE SAID THIS IN A WEAK VOICE, SHE SAID IT IN A CLEAR, DEFINITIVE TONE.

AT THAT MOMENT, THE DOCTOR'S EXPRESSION CHANGED COMPLETELY.

HIS FACE FILLED WITH SUCH UNSPEAKABLE ANGER AND IRRITATION THAT HE SUDDENLY LOOKED LIKE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON. HIS COLD EYES GLARED FIXEDLY AT RIZA.

HAVING SHOWN HIS TRUE NATURE, THE DOCTOR PULLED OUT A CLOTH FROM HIS POCKET WITH NIMBLENESS YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT FROM HIS BULKY FORM, AND PRESSED IT AGAINST RIZA'S MOUTH.

"DOCTOR!?"

THE DOCTOR LOOKED DOWN AT RIZA WITH A COLD FACE AS SHE STRUGGLED IN SURPRISE.

"TENACIOUS LITTLE CRYBABY...I'M AT MY LIMIT! I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR CONSENT ANYMORE!"

THE CLOTH MUST HAVE BEEN SOAKED IN A DRUG BECAUSE RIZA'S EYES BEGAN TO GO BLANK.

"I'VE KEPT 'THAT PERSON' WAITING FOR A FAIRLY LONG TIME! I'LL MAKE YOU COOPERATE NO MATTER WHAT!"

RIZA'S EYES SLOWLY DROOPED SHUT.

STRENGTH ESCAPED FROM HER BODY, AND SHE COLLAPSED ONTO THE BED.

BREATHING ROUGHLY, THE DOCTOR GRABBED A TELEPHONE ON THE SIDE OF THE BED AND BEGAN TO MAKE A CALL.

"DAMMIT! THINGS WERE SO MUCH EASIER WITH SARA. YOU'VE MADE ME WASTE A LOT MUCH TIME!"

THIS IS AS FAR AS IT GOES.

ALLEN FLUNG OPEN THE WINDOW AND JUMPED INTO THE ROOM.

THE DOCTOR COULD ONLY STAND PETRIFIED IN ASTONISHMENT AT THE SUDDEN INTRUDER.

"MAKING A PHONE CALL TO THE MILLENNIUM EARL? DOCTOR."

"WHA..."

THE DOCTOR'S HAND FLEW INTO THE INSIDE POCKET OF HIS BUSINESS SUIT.

ALLEN KICKED OFF THE FLOOR.

THE MOMENT THE DOCTOR TOOK OUT THE HANDGUN, ALLEN HAD ALREADY SHORTENED THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM, AND GRABBED THE WRIST THAT HELD THE GUN.

AFTER HE EMPTIED THE DOCTOR'S LEFT HAND, ALLEN GRABBED AHOLD OF THE THE MAN'S NECK.

THE DOCTOR MADE A GLURGLING SOUND IN HIS THROAT.

AS THE DOCTOR'S FACE TWITCHED, SWEAT BEGAN TO FLOW FROM THE TEMPLES OF HIS FOREHEAD.

WHEN ALLEN HAD TWISTED THE DOCTOR'S WRIST, THE GUN HAD QUICKLY FALLEN TO THE FLOOR. ALLEN KICKED THE HANDGUN UNDER THE BED.

"I'VE HEARD OF HUMANS LIKE YOU. IN EXCHANGE FOR A LARGE AMOUNT OF REWARD MONEY, YOU





PREPARE THE "INGREDIENTS" FOR AKUMA. YOU'RE COOPERATIVE WORKERS OF THE MILLENNIUM EARL..."

THE MILLENNIUM EARL -- HE TAMPERED WITH PEOPLE'S HEARTS, AND IN THE END, TURNED THEM INTO WEAPONS.

THE HAND WRAPPED AROUND THE DOCTOR'S NECK SQUEEZED HARDER AS POWER FILLED IT.

"YES. YOU'RE CALLED "BROKERS" AREN'T YOU?"

"W-WHO ARE YOU?"

THE DOCTOR WAS TREMBLING HORRIBLY.

"YOU KNOW THE MILLENNIUM EARL!? COULD YOU BE AN AKUMA? HIS MESSENGER!?"

ALLEN LOOKED AT THE DOCTOR COLDLY.

IT APPEARS THAT THE DOCTOR DOESN'T REGARD ME AS THE ENEMY EXORCIST, BUT AS A MESSENGER OF THE MILLENNIUM EARL.

WHEN ALLEN STAYED SILENT WITHOUT DENYING ANYTHING, THE DOCTOR BEGAN TO TALK FREELY.

"I-I KNOW IT'S MY FAULT FOR PASSING THE DEADLINE!! BUT THE MAN...HE JUST WOULDN'T DIE EASILY..."

SINCE HE'S A DOCTOR, THE PROBABILITY OF HIM MEETING PEOPLE ON THEIR DEATHBEDS IS HIGH. SO HE MUST HAVE BEEN WATCHING LENNY, EVEN BEFORE HE HAD DIED.

THE DOCTOR BECAME MORE DESPERATE AS ALLEN STOOD IN SILENCE.

"I WORKED HARD WITH THE GOOD "INGREDIENTS" THAT WERE HANDED OVER TO ME!! SO THAT THE WOMAN WOULDN'T SUSPECT ANYTHING, I SERVED HIM SOME POISON BIT BY BIT...SO I COULD SPEED UP HIS TIME OF DEATH..."

DID HE JUST SAY, SPEED UP THE TIME OF HIS DEATH?!

ALLEN COULD HARDLY BELIEVE HIS EARS.

"I PRODUCED THE BEST TRAGEDY! I THINK EVEN THE EARL WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THESE TWO!!"

I FEEL HOT. I CAN FEEL THE ANGER IN MY HEART BOILING OVER ME.

"IT WASN'T A TRAGEDY. SHE WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT HIS DEATH."

HE SPOKE IN A LOW VOICE THAT HE COULDN'T BELIEVE WAS HIS OWN.

"YOU WERE ONLY BEING AN INTERFERENCE WHILE SHE WAS TRYING TO HEAL HER HEART."

THE STRENGTH IN HIS HAND WOULDN'T LOOSEN. HIS FINGERS DUG CRUELLY INTO THE DOCTOR'S THROAT WITH A GRINDING SOUND, AND THE DOCTOR SCREAMED.

JUST THEN, THE DOOR WAS FORCEFULLY THROWN OPEN.

A SLENDER WOMAN WEARING A WHITE NURSE'S ROBE CAME INSIDE. LONG, CHESTNUT-COLORED HAIR -- IT WAS SARA, THE WOMAN HE HAD SEEN IN THE PHOTO.

"RELEASE YOUR HOLD ON HIM!"

SARA GLARED AT HIM.

ALLEN LOOKED AT SARA WITH PITY IN HIS EYES.

SHE WAS THE WOMAN WHO LOST HER LOVER IN AN ACCIDENT; THIS HORRIBLE SITUATION WAS THE REASON WHY SHE HADN'T BEEN COMING TO HER FAVORITE STORE LATELY.

LOSING HER LOVER SO SUDDENLY...SHE MUST HAVE BEEN EASILY TAKEN IN BY HONEYED WORDS.

"SO YOU ARE ALSO A VICTIM THAT THE DOCTOR...NO, THE EARL CREATED."

ALLEN GAZED AT "THE PITIFUL SOUL OF A MAN WHO HAD INVADED A CORPSE" IN FRONT OF HIM.

"WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?"

"MY LEFT EYE CAN SEE THE SOULS INVOLVED WITH AKUMA. IT'S A PROFITABLE ABILITY I USE TO COMPENSATE FOR HAVING TURNED MY IMPORTANT PERSON INTO AN AKUMA. YOU ARE...AN AKUMA WEARING SARA'S SKIN. YOUR NAME'S RICHARD-SAN, ISN'T IT, YOU'RE SARA'S DEAD LOVER?"

"SILENCE!"

SARA'S FEATURES CHANGED.

THERE WAS A LOW-KEY GROANING NOISE AS SPIRALING WRINKLES APPEARED AROUND SARA'S EYES AND THEN RAPIDLY SPREAD TO THE REST OF HER FACE.

TEARS OF BLOOD FELL FROM HER BLUE EYES. PERHAPS BECAUSE SHE WAS ORIGINALLY A VERY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN,

THE TRANSFIGURATION SHE WAS UNDERGOING LOOKED CRUEL.

SARA'S BODY TREMBLED.

HOW MANY TIMES HAD HE SEEN THIS? THE MOMENT WHEN THE THE
EVIL WEAPON -- THE AKUMA -- FLUNG AWAY ITS HUMAN SKIN.

A CLEAR TONE OF SHIFTING METAL RANG THROUGHOUT THE ROOM.

"RICHARD'S SOUL", HIS NECK TIED TO A CONNECTING CHAIN, WAS
VISIBLE FOR ONE INSTANT...

AND THEN SARA'S BODY, NO, THE SKIN, BURST OPEN ALL AT ONCE.
AS IF THEY HAD BEEN WAITING IMPATIENTLY, CORDS AND MACHINE
PARTS THRUST OUT FROM INSIDE ONE AFTER ANOTHER, WRAPPING
AROUND HER RAPIDLY CHANGING FORM.

A HORRIFYING SCENE, WHEN HUMAN AND MACHINE FUSE
TOGETHER...

A CREATION OF TRAGEDY, THE EVIL WEAPON TWISTED ITSELF INTO
A DISTORTED AND ENORMOUS BALL SHAPE.

IN THE CENTER OF THAT ARTIFICIAL FORM, ONE COULD BARELY BE
MADE OUT A WOMAN'S FACE. THIS WAS THE ONLY PROOF THAT THE
WEAPON WAS ORIGINALLY SARA.

THE AKUMA BOAST A HARD BODY THAT CANNOT BE DAMAGED BY
GUNSHOTS. HUMANS CANNOT OPPOSE THEM THROUGH USUAL
MEANS.

NOT ONLY DO THEY HAVE A HIGH DEFENSIVE POWER, BUT ALSO AN
UNIMAGINABLE OFFENSE. THEY COULD PROJECT A GREAT NUMBER
OF BULLETS FROM THE CYLINDRICAL CANNONS SPREAD ACROSS
THEIR BODIES. STARTING NOW, THIS AKUMA WILL BEGIN TO FIRE
THESE BULLETS.

FROM THEIR FIXED POSITION, SARA'S BLUE EYES GLARED IN HIS DIRECTION.

IT'S COMING!

THE MOMENT THE CANNON SPOUTED FIRE, ALLEN KICKED OFF THE FLOOR AND DANCED THROUGH THE AIR.

THE BULLETS OF THE AKUMA GRAZED HIS SKIN, MERCILESSLY TEARING APART THE FLOOR, THE WINDOWS, AND THE WALLS. IT WAS A TERRIBLY DESTRUCTIVE FORCE.

A BULLET THAT HAD PIERCED THROUGH THE WINDOW HIT A TREE IN THE YARD.

IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE PENTACLES BEGAN TO RISE ON THE SURFACE OF THE TREE'S TRUNK. THIS WAS THE PROOF THAT THE VIRUS IN THE AKUMA'S BLOOD WAS INVADING IT.

AND THEN, THE SPLENDID TREE WITH ITS LUXURIOUSLY SPROUTING LEAVES, SMASHED INTO MANY PIECES AS IF IT WERE MADE OF GLASS.

THE AKUMA'S POISON DESTROYS ALL LIVING THINGS...

ALLEN SUDDENLY HEARD THE DOCTOR'S SCREAMS.

TRYING TO CURL HIS LARGE FRAME INTO A BALL, THE DOCTOR SHIVERED IN A CORNER OF THE ROOM.

THE DEVIL'S LUCK MUST HAVE BEEN ON HIS SIDE, BECAUSE NONE OF THE BULLETS HAD HIT HIM.

THE AKUMA SHOT OUT BULLETS ONCE AGAIN.

AVOIDING THE RAIN OF BULLETS, ALLEN WHIRLED AROUND ONCE AND LANDED ON TOP OF THE BED.

RIZA WAS STILL SLEEPING. *IF SHE STAYS HERE, SHE'LL GET HIT!*



I'LL SETTLE THIS IN ONE STRIKE!

ALLEN LIFTED HIS LEFT ARM TO HIS CHEST.

ANTI-AKUMA WEAPON, INVOCATE!

"CROSS THAT DWELLS WITHIN ME. GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO DESTROY THIS AKUMA."

THE CROSS EMBEDDED IN THE BACK OF HIS LEFT HAND SENT OUT A DAZZLING LIGHT. SHIFTING ITSELF INTO LIGHTNING, THE LIGHT RAN ALONG HIS UPPER ARM.

IN THE NEXT INSTANT, ALLEN'S LEFT ARM TURNED STIFF, AS IF IT HAD BECOME COVERED IN ARMOR. IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, HIS ARM GREW AS LONG AS HIS BODY, AND HIS FINGERS TURNED POINTY, LIKE A RAPTOR'S CLAW.

A WEAPON OF GOD THAT EXISTS TO DESTROY THE AKUMA -- THAT IS WHAT HIS LEFT HAND WAS.

ALLEN GAZED INTENTLY AT SARA, THE WOMAN WHO HAD TURNED INTO AN EVIL WEAPON.

"YOU LOVED YOUR DEAD LOVER SO MUCH, YOU COULDN'T ENDURE THE PAIN. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, BUT YOU WERE WRONG. YOU ACCEPTED HELP FROM SOMEONE YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE."

THE SAME AS I DID THREE YEARS AGO.

IT'S A TRAGEDY THAT CANNOT BE UNDONE.

CONTROLLED BY THE EARL, THEY COULD NO LONGER LIVE AS ANYTHING ELSE OTHER THAN A WEAPON.

ALLEN QUIETLY SHUT HIS EYES.

THIS IS THE ONLY THING I CAN DO.

SAVE PITIFUL SOULS.

"RICHARD, SARA, I'LL FREE YOU NOW."

ALLEN LIFTED HIS NOW LARGE LEFT ARM.

IT WON'T BE PAINFUL. I'LL DEFEAT YOU IN ONE BLOW.

ALLEN JUMPED HIGH, AND SWUNG DOWN HIS LEFT ARM LIKE AN AXE.

HIS LEFT HAND BROKE THROUGH THE AKUMA'S BODY.

SARA'S FACE, SET IN THE CENTER, OPENED ITS EYES WIDE AS IF IN SURPRISE.

"REST IN PEACE THIS TIME..."

GATHERING POWER INTO HIS LEFT HAND, ALLEN THOROUGHLY TORE HER IN HALF.

JUST WHEN HE THOUGHT THE AKUMA'S BODY WOULD SPLIT INTO TWO PARTS, RICHARD'S SOUL, WHICH HAD BEEN TRAPPED INSIDE, JUMPED OUT.

THE CHAIN THAT WAS BOUND AROUND HIS NECK BROKE INTO TINY PIECES...



RICHARD SHOWED AN EXPRESSION OF PEACE FOR A MOMENT BEFORE HE DISAPPEARED.

IN THE NEXT INSTANT, THE AKUMA'S BODY EXPLODED.

THE DEMONIC-TYPE BODY APPEARED, ONLY TO SLOWLY BURN AWAY.

GOOD NIGHT, SARA. GOOD NIGHT, RICHARD.

ALLEN GAZED AT HIS LEFT HAND.

"LI-LIWAAAAAAH! A MONSTER!!"

FINALLY OVERCOMING HIS TEMPORARY BOLT OF PARALYSIS, THE DOCTOR WAS HASTILY FUMBLING TOWARDS THE DOOR.

ALLEN DIDN'T MOVE. NO, HE COULDN'T MOVE.

THE DOCTOR WAS THE MAN WHO HAD CREATED THIS TRAGEDY; HE TURNED SARA INTO AN AKUMA, AND HAD EVEN WANTED TO GIVE UP RIZA AS A TRIBUTE TO THE MILLENNIUM EARL.

I CAN'T FORGIVE HIM. IF I COULD...

HIS LEFT HAND TWITCHED AS IT TRIED TO LIFT ITSELF UP. IT WAS ALMOST AS IF IT WERE RESPONDING TO HIS FEELINGS.

CONTROL YOURSELF. CONTROL YOURSELF...

ALLEN DESPERATELY TRIED TO CALM HIS THUNDERING HEART AS HE RELEASED THE INVOCATION ON HIS HAND.

THE DOCTOR IS HUMAN. MY HAND ISN'T USED TO KILL HUMANS. IT'S USED TO

DESTROY THE AKUMA...

JUST AS THE DOCTOR TOUCHED THE KNOB, THE DOOR FLEW OPEN ON THE OTHER SIDE.

"YOU SHAMELESS MAN!!"

MOTHER'S FIST EXPLODED INTO THE DOCTOR'S FACE.

ALLEN STARED DUMBFOUNDED AS THE DOCTOR WAS BLOWN OFF HIS FEET.

A MAN THE SIZE OF A BEER BARREL WAS BEING KNOCKED OFF HIS FEET BY A SHORT OLD WOMAN. IF HE HADN'T SEEN IT WITH HIS OWN EYES, HE WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE.

"TO THINK THAT YOU WERE A BROKER! I'M GOING TO BEAT THAT ROTTEN NATURE OF YOURS BACK INTO SHAPE!"

MOTHER SEIZED THE NAPE OF THE DOCTOR'S NECK; HE HAD A BLOODY NOSE AND FAINTED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY.

"LI-LUM, MOTHER, WHY ARE YOU HERE?"

"YOU WERE LATE COMING BACK, SO I GOT WORRIED AND CAME HERE LOOKING FOR YOU. THEN I SAW THIS FIASCO..."

MOTHER HELD HER HAND OUT TOWARDS ALLEN. A FOLDED-UP MEMO WAS HELD BETWEEN HER FINGERS.

"HERE. IT HAS THE LOCATION TO HQ WRITTEN ON IT."

ALLEN TOOK THE MEMO FROM MOTHER.

"GEEZ, WHAT DISGUSTING TIMES THESE ARE."



MOTHER GOT A FARAWAY LOOK IN HER EYES.

"...I NEVER THOUGHT SARA WOULD TURN OUT TO BE LIKE THIS. AND FURTHERMORE, HE WAS EVEN AFTER RIZA...IT'S A GOOD THING THAT YOU CAME. LEAVE THE REST TO ME. I'LL MAKE SURE THAT HE ATONES FOR HIS SINS AFTER I'M DONE WITH HIM."

MOTHER GAVE ALLEN A SHARP LOOK.

"WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO LET HIM GO?"

ALLEN COULDN'T ENDURE HER GAZE AND TURNED HIS FACE AWAY.

"BECAUSE HE WAS HUMAN? YOU'RE SO NAIVE...THAT SOFTNESS OF YOURS IS GOING TO PUT YOU IN A DILEMMA ONE OF THESE DAYS...I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT YOU WERE PREPARED?"

ALLEN LOOKED AT HIS FEET WITHOUT SAYING A SINGLE WORD.

"YOUR ENEMIES WON'T JUST BE THE MILLENNIUM EARL AND THE AKUMA. THERE WILL ALSO BE A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF HUMANS, LIKE THIS BROKER, WHO WILL SIDE WITH THE EARL. SOME OF THEM MIGHT NOT DO IT FOR MONEY, LIKE THIS DOCTOR. THERE MIGHT BE THOSE WHO ACTIVELY WANT TO ANNIHILATE HUMANS, OR THOSE WHO THINK THEY SHOULD DESTROY THIS WORLD. WHEN YOU CONFRONT THOSE KINDS OF PEOPLE, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?"

ALLEN CHEWED HIS LIP.

AS AN EXORCIST, I'M PREPARED TO FIGHT WITH THE AKUMA.

BUT, WOULD I BE ABLE TO KILL HUMANS?

EVEN IF MY LIFE WAS IN DANGER, I CAN'T CLEARLY SAY WHETHER OR NOT I'LL BE ABLE TO KILL ANOTHER HUMAN BEING...

"I'M SORRY..."

"YOU STUPID IDIOT!!"

ALLEN FLEW BACKWARDS AS HIS FACE WAS THOROUGHLY PINCHED IN. AT FIRST, HE THOUGHT HE WAS HIT WITH A HAMMER OR SOMETHING, BUT IT WAS ONLY MOTHER GRASPING HER FIST TIGHTLY. SHE REALLY HELD UNBELIEVABLE POWER FOR AN OLD WOMAN.

"YOU'RE STILL COMPLETELY WEAK!! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO BECOME AN EXORCIST! YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE MILLENNIUM EARL IN A STRUGGLE TO THE DEATH THE WAY YOU ARE RIGHT NOW!?"

ALLEN RUBBED HIS BRUISED CHEEK, LOOKING AT MOTHER IN SURPRISE.

"IF YOU CAN'T TREAT YOURSELF MORE VALUABLY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TREAT OTHERS THE SAME WAY! DO YOU WANT TO BE AN EXORCIST JUST SO YOU CAN "DESTROY" THE AKUMA!?"

ALLEN LOOKED AT HIS FEET; HE HAD NO WORDS TO RESPOND WITH.

THE SILENCE CONTINUED. THEN...

"GAIN TRUE STRENGTH LIKE RIZA, AND BECOME AN EXORCIST."

SURPRISED BY THE SAINTLY VOICE FULL OF MOTHERLY AFFECTION, ALLEN RAISED HIS HEAD. MOTHER LOOKED AT HIM, WEARING HER

USUAL IRRITATED FACE.

SHE WAS A DEVIL BENEATH TEMPLE GUARDIAN DEITIES...BUT SHE REGARDED HIM IMPORTANTLY.

SOMETHING WARM POURED IN HIS HEART.

I WILL CONTINUE TO DO MY BEST. SO THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE HER STILL AROUND.

"YES...YOU'RE RIGHT. RIZA IS TRULY STRONG."

ALLEN SOFTLY TOUCHED THE BUTTON ON HIS SLEEVE.

HE SLOWLY APPROACHED THE BED, AND GAZED AT RIZA'S SLEEPING FACE.

RIZA WAS GENTLY BREATHING AS SHE SLEPT. FROM THE CORNER OF HER RIGHT EYE SPILLED A TRICKLE OF TEARS.

ALLEN GENTLY WIPED THEM AWAY WITH HIS THUMB.

THE RINGS OF MANY TELEPHONES RESOUNDED THROUGHOUT A WIDE ROOM, A CACOPHONY OF NOISE.

SURROUNDED BY THIS HIGH PILE OF TELEPHONES WAS THE MILLENNIUM EARL.

HE GRABBED THE CLOSEST PHONE.

"HELLO-? ♥"

HOWEVER, NO SOUND COULD BE HEARD ON THE OTHER LINE.

"CHE, WHAT ARE YOU CALLING FOR? MY CONTRACT IS FINISHED WITH YOU! ♥"

THE EARL EASILY SET THE TELEPHONE ASIDE.

"I HAVE PLENTY OF OTHER BROKERS ♥"

THE EARL GRABBED ONE OF THE TELEPHONES THAT RANG LIKE A NEVERENDING SCREECH.

"HELLO, THIS IS THE EARL~~~~♥ EH, YOU'VE GOTTEN A GOOD ONE?♥"

THE EARL GLANCED AT THE WALL.

ARRANGED IN A ROW THERE WERE MANY DEMONIC-TYPE BODIES. SOME OF THEM HAD A PAPER STUCK ON THEM WITH THE WORDS "RESERVED".

A SATISFIED SMILE APPEARED ON HIS FACE.

LIKE A LOUD CHORUS, THE TELEPHONES CONTINUED TO RING.

THE SOUND OF THIS MULTITUDE OF RINGING WILL ONLY STOP WHEN EITHER MANKIND, OR THE EARL, IS DESTROYED.

THE MAKER OF AKUMA: THE MILLENNIUM EARL. THE APOSTLES OF GOD: THE EXORCISTS.

WITH THE FATE OF THE WORLD WAGERED BETWEEN THE TWO, THE FIGHT HAS ALREADY BEGUN...



The Gergman of the Journey - Part 3/3

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release
The Wargman of the Journey

To be continued...

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Text and pictures belong to
Hoshino Katsura and Kizaki Kaya.

Raw Scans: CChan
Translation: CChan
Proofreading: Pirate
Edition: Nat
Testing: Nat



See you on next issue!